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March 26, 2002 LB 1085

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, and this will be your third time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Inaudible)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. You are watching an interesting phenomenon this afternoon. If any of you watch track meets, they have what they call relay races. That's where they will have four people and each...the distance...the total distance of the race you get to by multiplying by four the distance that each one runs. The one who starts the race is given a stick called a baton, and that person runs as fast as he or she can and gives it off to the next person. The relay exists because no one person runs the entire race. The stick is handed off and each one does his or her part. Well, I'm like that miler. I'm in a mile relay but I have to run the whole mile. So I run around one time with the stick in my right hand, then I relay by passing it to my left hand. But sometimes it's necessary in legislating to do exactly what we're doing, and because we understand the reality of how a legislature really functions, we should not be so quick to go running out of here when these reporters get stories wrong, when editors don't have anything better to do than attack the Legislature, when the Governor does the same thing. We should not jump on that bandwagon and pretend that we don't understand We know that points are reached in the the real dynamics. legislative process where those of us who might not be able to stand the sight of each other, nevertheless must work together and cooperate. That is one of the dynamics that the people on the outside do not understand, and it's why as much as it might be made to appear that I can't get along with anybody, the reality is far different. So what we need to do as legislators is uphold the dignity of the Legislature, as an institution, and make people respect this Legislature, as an institution, in the way that they fear me. And if we did that, we would not have some of our colleagues meeting somewhere trying to figure how to